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Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know whether any proposal is under the consideration of Government to make these officers permanent or to convert them into health officers ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Registration

Simplification of the orders regarding levy of fees on encumbrance certificates in the Registration department.

* 1192 Q.—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to simplify the orders on the levy of fees on encumbrance certificates issued in the Registration department ?

A. - The answer is in the negative.

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know whether the Government have considered the hardship caused by the rules regarding encumbrance certificates pointed out to Government in the course of budget discussions last March ? "

The hon Mr S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The hon. Member asks in what ways the orders are proposed to be simplified. So far as I am able to see, the rules are as simple as possible, but if the hon. Member means the question of reduction of fees, that is a different matter."

Water-supply

Alleged memorials against the levy of water-tax in Tiruvannamalai municipality.

* 1193 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate-payers of Tiruvannamalai municipality, North Arcot district, sent a mahazar to Government protesting against the levy of water-tax by the municipality and requesting the Government not to sanction loans for a water-supply scheme for their town ;

(b) what is the amount proposed to be borrowed by the municipality for this scheme and how the municipality proposes to repay the amount ;

(c) whether Government propose to excuse repayment of the loan on the ground that Tiruvannamalai is a noted pilgrim centre ;

(d) whether the municipality has to find any sums in addition to the proposed Government loan or grant ;

(e) whether the municipality has sent in any proposals to Government for the levy of water-tax and if so, what orders have been passed by Government thereon ;

(f) what is the security which Government have demanded or propose to demand for their loan if no water-tax is to be levied ;

(g) what is the incidence of municipal taxation as it already exists ; and

(h) whether Government will make thorough enquiries into the capacity of the rate-payers to bear any additional burden before they allow this municipality to levy a water-tax ?

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A.—(*a*) Yes, a mahazar was received from certain rate-payers of Tiruvannamalai objecting to the grant of a loan by Government for a water-supply scheme and to the levy of water-tax.

(*b*) Rs. 1,72,500. The municipal council proposes to repay this loan in 20 equal annual instalments of Rs. 14,137 each.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The municipal council has to find a sum of Rs. 6,500 required to provide for the annual maintenance charges. A sum of Rupees 5,000 available from the savings on account of the provincialization of the municipal hospital has also to be utilized towards the cost of the scheme.

(*e*) The council has agreed to levy the water and drainage tax at $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent per annum.

(*f*) The question does not arise.

(*g*) The council is levying property tax at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for general purposes.

(*h*) The Government do not consider it necessary to make any enquiry in the matter.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. Minister for Public Health whether Tiruvannamalai is not one of the pilgrim centres, and whether that is not a special case for favourable consideration ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" There are a large number of pilgrim centres and if all such centres are to be given special consideration it would be difficult."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask whether the incidence of taxation proposed is not very big for a small place like Tiruvannamalai ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The municipal council has decided upon fixing that and I am not sure whether I will be entitled to go into the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask with regard to the answer to clause (*a*), what action has been taken on the mahazars ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" We thought it was not necessary to take any action on the mahazars."

Water-supply scheme for Rajahmundry.

*1194 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long the water and drainage tax has been levied by the Municipal Council, Rajahmundry ;

(*b*) what the total amount now available for use under the above head is ;

(*c*) when the work will actually commence ;

(*d*) whether provision will be made in the next year's budget for the grant to be made to the municipal council for the above purpose ;

(*e*) whether the plans and estimates have been completed ;

(*f*) if not, for how long they have been under preparation ; and

(*g*) the reasons for such delay ?